

Listing of claims:

1. *(Currently amended)* In a lift device having a platform movable between a lower position, an upper position, and a stowed position, and connected to a lever arm assembly and a hydraulic apparatus actuated by a pump and motor assembly, the improvement comprising providing a direct current (DC) electric motor with control circuitry to adjust the speed of said DC electric motor and thereby the speed of the platform, wherein the control circuitry adjusts the speed of the platform in response to a position of the platform.

2. *(Previously presented)* In the lift device of claim 1, the lever arm assembly comprising at least one parallelogram structure.

3. *(Previously presented)* In the lift device of claim 1, said control circuitry being configured to adjust the speed of said DC motor so that the platform moves more slowly when pivoting from and to the stowed position than when the platform moves between the lower and upper positions.

4. *(Previously presented)* In the lift device of claim 1, the platform assuming a substantially horizontal orientation in the lower or upper position and pivotable to a substantially vertical orientation in the stowed position.

5. *(Previously presented)* In the lift device of claim 1, said control circuitry including a variable resistance circuit.

6. *(Currently amended)* In a lift device of the type used to raise a vehicle vertically for enabling ready access to the vehicle's undercarriage, said lift device comprising a platform for supporting a vehicle movable from ground to an elevated position and back to ground again, the improvement comprising providing a direct current electric motor with variable resistance control circuitry for actuation of a pump and hydraulic apparatus so that speed of motion of said platform is variable, wherein the variable resistance control circuitry adjusts the speed of motion of said platform in response to a position of said platform.

7. *(Currently amended)* A lift device, comprising:
a platform;
a lever assembly coupled to said platform;
a hydraulic apparatus coupled to said lever assembly, an actuation of said hydraulic apparatus moving said platform through said lever assembly;
a hydraulic pump coupled to said hydraulic apparatus;
a direct current (DC) motor coupled to drive said hydraulic pump; and
a control circuit coupled to said DC motor, said control circuit adjusting a speed of said DC motor in response to a position of the platform to effectuate a variation in a speed of motion of said platform through said hydraulic pump, said hydraulic apparatus, and said lever assembly.

8. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 7, wherein said lift device is configured to function as a wheelchair lift.

9. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 7, wherein said lift device is configured to function as a truck tailgate lift.

10. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 7, wherein said lever assembly comprises at least one parallelogram structure.

11. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 7, wherein said lever assembly is configured to move said platform between a lowered position, a raised position, and a stowed position.

12. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 11, wherein said lever assembly is configured to maintain said platform in a substantially horizontal orientation at the lowered position and at the raised position, and to pivot said platform to a substantially vertical orientation at the stowed position.

13. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 12, wherein said control circuit includes at least one solenoid valve configured to actuate a translation motion and a pivot motion of said platform through said lever assembly.

14. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 12, wherein said control circuit controls a speed of said DC motor so that said hydraulic apparatus moves said platform at a first speed between the lowered position and the raised position and pivots said platform at a second speed less than the first speed to and from the stowed position.

15. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 7, wherein said control circuit is configured to control a speed of said DC motor by controlling a current flowing through said DC motor.

16. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 15, wherein said control circuit includes a variable resistance circuit.

17. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 15, wherein said control circuit includes:

- a power supply; and
- a variable resistance element serially coupled between said power supply and said DC motor.

18. *(Previously presented)* The lift device of claim 17, wherein said variable resistance element includes:

- a first switch having a first terminal coupled to said power supply and a second terminal coupled to said DC motor;
- a second switch having a first terminal coupled to said power supply and a second terminal; and
- a resistor having a first terminal coupled to said second terminal of said second switch and a second terminal coupled to said DC motor.

19. (*Previously presented*) The lift device of claim 18, wherein said control circuit further includes:

a third switch coupled to a control terminal of said first switch in said variable resistance element; and

a fourth switch coupled to a control terminal of said second switch in said variable resistance element.

20. (*Previously presented*) The lift device of claim 19, wherein:

an activation of said third switch turns on said first switch in said variable resistance element to cause a first current through said DC motor; and

an activation of said fourth switch turns on said second switch in said variable resistance element to cause a second current less than the first current through said DC motor.

21. (*New*) A lift device comprising:

a platform movable between a lower position, an upper position, and a stowed position, the platform connected to a lever arm assembly and a hydraulic apparatus actuated by a pump and motor assembly;

a switch capable of detecting a position of the platform; and

a controller capable of adjusting a speed of the platform by adjusting a speed of the pump and motor assembly in response to the position of the platform as detected by the switch.

22. (*New*) The lift device of claim 21, wherein the controller adjusts the speed of the platform to a lower speed when the platform is between the lower position and the upper position, and to a higher speed when the platform is between the upper position and the stowed position.

23. (*New*) The lift device of claim 21, wherein the switch is a limit switch.

24. (*New*) The lift device of claim 21, wherein the controller is an electrical circuit.

25. (New) The lift device of claim 21, wherein the controller is a microprocessor.

26. (New) A lift device comprising:

a platform movable between a lower position, an upper position, and a stowed position, the platform connected to a lever arm assembly and a hydraulic apparatus actuated by a pump and motor assembly;

means for detecting a position of the platform; and

means for adjusting a speed of the platform by adjusting a speed of the pump and motor assembly in response to the position of the platform as detected by the means for detecting.

27. (New) A method for variable speed actuation of a lift device, the method comprising:

providing a platform movable between a lower position, an upper position, and a stowed position, the platform connected to a lever arm assembly and a hydraulic apparatus actuated by a pump and motor assembly;

detecting a position of the platform; and

adjusting a speed of the platform by adjusting a speed of the pump and motor assembly in response to the position of the platform.